

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3778

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 3571

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GV XA GW

SUBJECT: FRG CONCERN ABOUT STATUS OF THEIR CHANCERY IN
CONAKRY

1. FONOFF GUINEA DESK OFFICER, JOCHUM, TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 8 THAT THE GOVT OF GUINEA APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THE FRG CHANCERY BUILDING (WHICH JOCHUM MENTIONED IS LOCATED NEAR THE U. S. CHANCERY). THE GUINEANS LET IT BE KNOWN THROUGH THE ITALIANS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE THE FRG PROPERTY AND POINTED OUT IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THEY WERE DEVELOPING THE AREA IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED FOR GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES. JOCHUM SAID THAT THE FRG CHANCERY BUILDING IS ALMOST COMPLETELY NEW AND PRACTICALLY UNUSED AND THAT THE FRG DESIRES TO KEEP IT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS VALUE AS A PROPERTY BUT A SYMBOL OF THE POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE GUINEANS THEMSELVES HAVE A REASONABLY VALUABLE PROPERTY IN BAD GODESBERG WHICH THEY MIGHT BE THINKING OF EXCHANGING FOR THE FRG BUILDING IN CONAKRY, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR YET WHAT KIND OF SETTLEMENT THEY HAVE IN MIND IF THEY DECIDED TO TAKE OVER THE FRG BUILDING.

2. JOCHUM SAID THE INITIAL ANSWER WHICH THE FRG HAS PROVIDED TO THE GOG THROUGH THE ITALIANS WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WERE NO URGENT REASONS FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES TO DIVEST THEMSELVES OF THEIR PROPERTIES SINCE THE FRG
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ASSUMED THAT THE CURRENT RUPTURED STATE OF RELATIONS WOULD NOT LAST FOREVER. IF THE GUINEANS CONTINUE TO PRESS, JOCHUM SAID, THE FRG WOULD PROBABLY PROPOSE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WOULD SERVE TO DELAY THE PROCESS AND ALSO TO REESTABLISH A MODICUM OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE FRG AND GUINEA. JOCHUM COMMENTED THAT THE FRG HAD NO EXPECTATION THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE FREEDOM OF THE GERMAN PRISONER MARX IN RETURN FOR THE CHANCERY BUILDING.

3. GIVEN THE PROXIMITY OF THE U. S. EMBASSY OFFICE BUILDING TO THE FRG CHANCERY, JOCHUM ASKED WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE THE FONOFF WITH ANY USEFUL INFO ON OUR OWN RECENT EXPERIENCE. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE U. S. BUILDING WAS RENTED FROM ONE OF THE LARGE ALUMINUM FIRMS BUT THAT WE HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN BUYING IT. IN RESPONSE TO JOCHUM'S REQUEST, WE WOULD APPRECIATE: (A) ANY INFO ADDRESSEES HAVE ON GOG INTEREST IN FRG CHANCERY; (B) HAS GOD INDICATED SIMILAR INTEREST IN U. S. OCCUPIED BUILDING OWING TO THEIR ALLEGED DESIRE TO DEVELOP THE AREA FOR GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES? HILLENBRAND

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